



DRAFT MINUTES

CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PANEL

Thursday, September 19, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. | 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Chair
Rep. Christine F. Watkins, Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Cheryl K. Acton

Members Absent:

Rep. Sandra Hollins

Staff Present:

Ms. Karin M. Rueff, Policy Analyst
Ms. Ericka A. Evans, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Leila Reynolds, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Christensen called the meeting to order.

1 . Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Yeas-4

Rep. C. Acton
Sen. A. Christensen
Sen. G. Davis
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0Absent-1

Rep. S. Hollins

2 . A Performance Audit of Child Welfare During Divorce Proceedings

Darin Underwood, Deputy Auditor General, and Anndrea Parrish, Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, presented the audit their office conducted on Child Welfare During Divorce Proceedings.

[2.1 A Performance Audit of Child Welfare During Divorce Proceedings](#)

[2.2 A Performance Audit of Child Welfare During Divorce Proceedings Presentation](#)

The panel asked questions of the auditors.

Judge Mary Noonan, State Court Administrator, and Michael Drechsel, Assistant State Court Administrator, presented their response to the audit on behalf of the courts.

The chair asked questions of the presenters while they presented their response.

The panel asked questions of the representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Darin Underwood responded to Sen. Davis' question.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to make the recommendation to have the Judiciary Committee review the audit.

Rep. Acton asked a question of the representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts.



MOTION: Sen. Davis restated his motion to move to have the panel send a letter to the Judiciary Interim Committee recommending that the Judiciary Interim Committee review "A Performance Audit on Child Welfare in Divorce Proceedings". The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Yeas-4

Rep. C. Acton

Sen. A. Christensen

Sen. G. Davis

Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-1

Rep. S. Hollins

The representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts made a request that a legislator remain on the Judicial Council's Committee on Children and Family Law. Judge Noonan requested that Sen. Weiler remain on the committee as the Legislative representative.

The panel agreed to Judge Noonan's request and made the recommendation that Sen. Weiler remain on the Judicial Council's Committee on Children and Family Law.

3 . The Family First Prevention Services Act

Rep. Watkins introduced the agenda item and presenter.

Nina Williams-Mbengue, Program Director, Children and Families Program, NCSL, presented on the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 and what it means for Utah's foster care system.

The panel asked questions of the presenter during the presentation.

Diane Moore, DCFS, made additional comments on the Family First Prevention Services Act and how it has been working in Utah.

The panel asked questions of Diane Moore.

4 . Fatality Reviews

Amy Duvall, Fatality Review Coordinator, Department of Human Services, presented on the purpose of fatality reviews, the fatality review process, and process improvements that have been implemented this past fiscal year. In addition, Ms. Duvall provided data from the fatality reviews during Fiscal Year 2019.

[4.1 Fiscal Year 2019 Fatality Review Summary](#)

[4.2 Fiscal Year 2019 Fatality Review Summary Presentation](#)

The Chair read the respective code regarding closing the meeting for discussion of individual fatality cases.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to close the meeting to review the fatality reviews The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Yeas-4

Rep. C. Acton

Sen. A. Christensen

Sen. G. Davis

Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-1

Rep. S. Hollins

The Chair asked members of the audience who were not specifically asked to remain to exit the room for the closed portion of the meeting.



MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to open the meeting to the public again. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Yeas-4

Rep. C. Acton
Sen. A. Christensen
Sen. G. Davis
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-1

Rep. S. Hollins

The chair asked the presenters to discuss the items that were brought up during the closed portion that could be discussed publicly.

Diane Moore introduced the Baby Box, a new program that is being rolled out.

Tonya Myrup, Assistant Director, DCFS, described the purpose of the baby box and what comes in it.

Diane Moore discussed additional items and program implementations that are now being carried out by case workers to help create safer environments for the families.

Tonya Myrup described the Child Protector App that was developed by Mercy Hospital to help identify injuries when case workers do safety assessments.

The committee asked questions of the presenters.

Diane Moore described the additional things DCFS is looking at and implementing with other organizations to help prevent and evaluate fatalities.

Tonya Myrup discussed the Suicide Screener and how they decide to ask the full set of questions to determine the type of intervention needed.

The committee asked further questions of the presenters.

Diane Moore made closing statements.

5 . Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Yeas-4

Rep. C. Acton
Sen. A. Christensen
Sen. G. Davis
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-1

Rep. S. Hollins

The panel adjourned at 12:15 p.m.